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DUXBURY CLIPPER

## More Long Ago Duxbury

by ALISON ARNOLD

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I had a telephone call from Mrs. Richard Field of Washington St. She had found among her possessions a program of a Duxbury Yacht Club show, dated July 25, 1914.

Having read my stories of long ago Duxbury in The Clipper, she thought I might like to do one about the yellowed program. So she invited me to tea, and over the blue and white teacups in her sunny living-room, we reminisced about that long hot summer when the first World War began.

Mrs. Field, the former Fanny Seymour, belongs to a theatrical family. Her parents were on the stage and she was named for her aunt, Fanny Davenport, a well-known actress, whose summer home was where the V.C. Powers now live.

Fanny came to Duxbury summers as a child. Now lives in the same house. My parents were both on the stage, too,

and we came to Duxbury summers. I now live in the same house where I came as a child. So we have a common love for and interest in Duxbury.

In that long ago summer of 1914, I considered Fanny a romantic figure. Not only was she handsome but she was also being courted by Richard Field. I was enough younger to be impressed.

I kept a diary in 1914 and in it I wrote, on July 25, "What a hot day! I played tennis, but it was too hot. I was allowed to go to the Yacht Club Vaudeville to-night. It was very good. Fanny Seymour and her brother, James, did a skit and they were wonderful."

My father, George Allison, was in the show, too, and did some "Musical Sketches," including some Cockney songs. Fanny's mother, Mrs. Seymour, wrote comments in pencil beside each number on the program. Beside my father's, she wrote: "Very good," and beside Fanny's skit she put "Very well done."

Christine Wheeler, who is now Mrs. Gordon Jameson of Surplus St., did an interpretive dance called "Entrancing Enticement" and Mrs. Seymour called it "Very good."

A group of eight girls did a dance called "Glow Worm." They were Margaret and Frances Ben-

edict, Helen and Anna Elms, Helen Maxwell, Maisie Nash, Alice Perkins and Fanny Seymour. Beside this, Mrs. Seymour wrote: "Charming."

Constance Binney, the belle of Duxbury that summer, did a "Chinese One Step" with Helen Maxwell, who is now Mrs. J. Radford Abbot. This number was marked "Entrancing" by Mrs. Seymour. Constance also did a solo dance that was marked "Very pretty". She was 18 that summer and all the boys were crazy about her. Later, she made a name for herself on the stage.

A "One Man Melody" by Frank Sibley was, according to Mrs. Seymour, "Stupid", and the Duxbury Yacht Club Quartet, which included W.H. Rose, Waldo Kennard, Alcide de Andria and Albert Haberstroh (one of Constance Binney's ardent swains) was termed "Bum!" a rather incongruous remark from dignified Mrs. Seymour! I suppose, in today's slang, it would have been "Lousy!"

While in Hot Springs, Arkansas recently, Charles Morrison of Elm St. met Mr. and Mrs. Richard Platt of St. Louis, Mo., formerly of Duxbury. Mr. Platt is now associated with G.H. Walker & Co. in St. Louis.